

BIOSYNTHESIS OF HIF

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a method of identifying an agent (*e.g.*, peptide,
5 small molecule) that alters (partially, completely) the activity (function, expression) of
HIF. In one embodiment, the method of identifying an agent that alters (*e.g.*, inhibits,
enhances) the activity of HIF comprises contacting a molecule in the HIF biosynthetic
pathway (*e.g.*, a precursor of HIF, such as a steroid precursor; an enzyme) with an agent
to be assessed and determining whether the activity of the molecule (function,
10 expression) is altered in the presence of the agent when compared to the activity of the
molecule in the absence of the agent. The invention is also related methods of treatment
using such agents; and methods of monitoring the biosynthetic pathway of OLC/HIF.
In particular, the invention is related to agents, treatments, and diagnostics for diseases
such as hypertension and heart failure.